

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Final Office Action, claims 3, 4, 12, 14, 16, 20 and 22-24 were rejected. Claims 3, 12, 14, 16, 20 and 22-24 have been amended for clarification. Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 13, 15, 17-19 and 21 remain cancelled, and new claim 25 has been added. Thus, claims 3, 4, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22-25 are pending and under consideration. No new matter has been added. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e):

Claims 3, 16, 20 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,708, 798 ('798).

'798 discusses configuring systems based on component or resource requests or input in the form of a need. A user is prompted to make component requests using input forms with listboxes and pushbuttons to specify types and quantities of components to be configured (see, column 26, lines 1-8 of '798), and the '798 system accepts the specified components *input by the user* and maps the same to define the components as parts and products in terms of required and optional constituent components (see, column 26, lines 16-21 of '798). Accordingly, the '798 system is limited to configuring systems based on a user's input of an object of use and/or a need specifying the components needed to achieve the same.

Independent claims 3, 16, 20 and 22 as amended recite, displaying items for "a plurality of objects of use of commodities on a user's terminal" and "preparing a table indicative of correspondence between the objects of use and specifications required to attain the commodities". The objects of use or commodities usage information allow the retrieval of commodities "based on the acquired specification as a retrieval condition" (claims 3, 16, 20 and 22) "without requiring the user's knowledge" (claims 3, 16, 20 and 22-24). Accordingly, a user is able to select an item the user needs by indicating an object of use(s) without the need to know specification of the item. For example, a user simply selects "making a music CD" as an object of use and the present invention automatically selects a computer system with a CD-R drive. This is unlike the '798 system that requires the specification of components from a user to configure the system.

Independent claims 23 and 24 as amended recite, "acquiring a specification corresponding to at least one of the selectable commodities usage information selected by a user" (claim 23) and "retrieving and displaying data regarding a commodity having specifications corresponding to the selection of at least one selectable commodities usage information via the

terminal” (claim 24), where “the user’s knowledge of the specifications corresponding to the selected object of use by the user” is not required (claims 23 and 24).

The ‘798 configuring systems based on a user’s input of an object of use and/or a need specifying the components needed to achieve the same does not teach or suggest, providing specification(s) “without requiring the user’s knowledge of the specifications corresponding to the selected object of use by the user”.

It is submitted that the independent claims 3, 16, 20 and 22-24 are patentable over ‘798. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 4, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over ‘798 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,167,383 (‘383).

‘383 discusses custom configuration of a computer system based on an indication of a user belonging to a prescribed customer set using an online store.

Independent claims 12 and 14 as amended recite, “receiving information of items for a plurality of objects of use of commodities from the server”, where the items are displayed to allow a selection of the objects of use by the user and the selection is transmitted to the server. Accordingly, “information of a commodity having a specification corresponding to the selected object of use without requiring a user’s knowledge of the specification corresponding to the selected object of use” is transmitted.

However, the ‘383 configurator is provided for selection of components from a display of available system options for a chosen system using an online store (see, column 2, lines 5-9 of ‘383). The ‘383 system does not teach or suggest, transmitting “information of a commodity having a specification corresponding to the selected object of use without requiring a user’s knowledge of the specification corresponding to the selected object of use”, as provided in claims 12 and 14.

The combination of ‘798 and ‘383 does not teach or suggest providing specification information “without requiring a user’s knowledge of the specification corresponding to the selected object of use”, as recited in independent claims 12 and 14.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons in relation to claim 3, claim 4 depending from independent claim 3 is patentably distinguishable over ‘798. Claim 4 recites, the “Internet” via which the commodity sales transaction is performed “without requiring a user’s knowledge of the

specification corresponding to the selected object of use". The combination of '798 and '383 does not teach or suggest providing a commodity retrieval method via the "Internet" where commodity sales transaction is performed "without requiring a user's knowledge of the specification corresponding to the selected object of use".

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 25 has been added to highlight a commodity retrieval method for a commodity sales transaction including, "automatically displaying a specification information of the commodity upon an input of a selection of usage information by a user", where the "usage information is stored correspondingly with respective specification information" to provide the user with the respective specification information of the commodity without requiring the user to have knowledge of the specification information. This enables a user with limited or no knowledge of specification information of a commodity to engage in a sales transaction using usage information (i.e. the particular use the user intends to put the commodity towards).

It is respectfully submitted that new claim 25 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

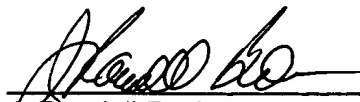
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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